CLAIMS:

1.   A method for activating a volume group without a quorum of disks in said volume group being active comprising the steps of:

sending a first notification of updating data associated with a plurality of disks in a first volume group shared by a first node and a second node;

receiving a second notification by said second node indicating that said data associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been updated, wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

activating said first volume group by identifying a single disk with valid data out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group based on said data identifier.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of activating said first volume group shared by said first and said second node occurs after said first node becomes inoperative, wherein said first node becomes inoperative after sending said second notification.

3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data is system configuration information.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data identifier is a time stamp.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data identifier is an indication of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume group that comprise valid data.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the allocation of said first volume group shared by said first and said second node needs to be changed.

1   7.   A computer program product having computer readable memory having

2   computer program logic recorded thereon for activating a volume group without a

3   quorum of disks in said volume group being active, comprising:

4   programming operable for receiving a first notification of updating data

5   associated with a plurality of disks in a first volume group shared by a first node and

6   a second node;

7   programming operable for receiving a second notification indicating that said

8   data associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been

9   updated, wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

10   programming operable for activating said first volume group by identifying a

11   single disk with valid data out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group

12   based on said data identifier.

1   8.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said

2   programming step of activating said first volume group shared by said first and said

3   second node occurs after said first node becomes inoperative, wherein said first node

4   becomes inoperative after sending said second notification.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data is

2   system configuration information.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data

2   identifier is a time stamp.

1   11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data

2   identifier is an indication of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume

3   group that comprise valid data.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data

2   associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the

3   allocation of said first volume group shared by said first and said second node needs

4   to be changed.

1   13.   A system, comprising:

2   a first node; and

3   a second node coupled to said first node, wherein said second node is

4   configured to take over the functions of said first node if said first node becomes

5   inoperative, wherein said second node comprises:

6   a processor;

7   a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for

8   activating a volume group without a quorum of disks in said volume group being

9   active;

10   an input mechanism;

11   an output mechanism; and

12   a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, input

13   mechanism, and output mechanism, wherein the computer program is operable for

14   performing the following programming steps:

15   receiving a first notification of updating data associated with a

16   plurality of disks in a first volume group shared by said first node and said second

17   node;

18   receiving a second notification indicating that said data

19   associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been updated,

20   wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

21   activating said first volume group by identifying a single disk

22   with valid data out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group based on said

23   data identifier.

1   14.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said programming step of

2   activating said first volume group shared by said first and said second node occurs

3   after said first node becomes inoperative, wherein said first node becomes inoperative

4   after sending said second notification.

1   15.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data is system configuration

2   information.

1   16.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data identifier is a time

2   stamp.

1   17.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data identifier is an indication

2   of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume group that comprise valid

3   data.

1   18.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data associated with said

2   plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the allocation of said first

3   volume group shared by said first and said second node needs to be changed.